

A²
Gardner

ethers.

In another aspect of the invention, a coated article is provided having a surface coated

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polyvinyl alcohols, and polyvinyl ethers.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 30 with the following replacement paragraph:

A4 By "crosslink reaction" as that term is used herein it is meant a reaction which forms covalent bridges or linkages between remote sites on the supporting polymer backbone. The crosslink reaction may occur by self-crosslinking of the functional pendant groups directly or by addition of a crosslinking agent which reacts at the functional group to form the requisite linkage.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 18 with the following replacement paragraph:)

A5 Use of polymers has several advantages over the use of monomers. First, it avoids toxic monomers which must be rigorously removed before subsequent use in medical applications. Second, it allows preparation of water-based formulations because the polymer is either soluble in water or may be prepared as a water-based emulsion or dispersion. In addition, there is more control over the nature of the polymer, e.g., molecular weight, degree of branching, etc. before blending and crosslinking.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 2 with the following replacement paragraph:

A6 The coating composition may additionally include a crosslink agent. Suitable crosslink agents include, but are not limited to, polyfunctional aziridines, polyfunctional carbodiimides and polyfunctional epoxides. Additionally, crosslinking may be initiated by external factors, such as heat and/or uv irradiation, either in place of or in conjunction with a crosslink agent. Where higher temperature may be tolerated, the use of melamine and urea/formaldehyde condensates is

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possible. Typically, the crosslink agent may be a di- or tri-functional compound; however, it is contemplated as being within the scope of the invention to use polyfunctional crosslink agents having three or more functional groups. It is also contemplated as within the scope of the invention to use ionic components, such as Zn, Ca and Mg, as the crosslink agent.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 16 with the following replacement paragraph:)

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Crosslinked samples were then modified with the hydrophilic polymer by adding predissolved 5% by weight hydrophilic polymer resin in water, added to provide a three part supporting polymer resin to one part hydrophilic polymer coating composition, unless noted otherwise.

In the Claims:

Please cancel ~~claims 22-28.~~

Please add the following new claims.

28
29. (new) A coated article having a surface coated with a hydrophilic coating, said hydrophilic coating comprising:

a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyacrylates and polymethacrylates, said polymer forming a three-dimensional supporting network through crosslinking bridges; and
a hydrophilic polymer, said hydrophilic polymer associated with the polyacrylate polymer network,

the polymer network having a crosslink density such that the coating retains durability and slip for up to 24 hours in ambient aqueous medium.

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30. (new) A coated article having a surface coated with a hydrophilic coating, said